

INTRODUCTORY

EC:13:01	The Chairperson calls the House to order
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Minutes:

13.1.1 Quorum of the meeting having been attained , the Chairman called the meeting to order after a brief welcome address and asked the Secretary to proceed with agenda items.

EC:13:02	Obituary Reference
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Minutes:

13.2.1 The House was informed of the sad demise of following eminent personalities recently:

1. *Shri MK Gurung, Deputy director, HRDD, Govt. of Sikkim*
2. *Shri Sukumar Azhikode, Veteran Malayalam Writer, Orator, Scholar and Gandhian, who passed way on 24.01.2012.*
3. *Veteran Actor Shri Dev Anand who passed away on 04.12.2011.*
4. *Shri P.K. Roy, Indian journalist and newspaperman, Chairman of Press Trust of India who passed away on 24.03.2012.*

13.2.2 The House observed two minutes' silence to condole their death.

EC:13:03	Performance Highlights by the Founding Vice-Chancellor
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Minutes:

13.3.1 The Vice Chancellor informed the House that as Founding Vice Chancellor, he had made it a practice since the very inception of the University in July 2007 to present before the members at the beginning of every meeting an account of various activities undertaken recently. This is intended to keep the members abreast of the movements in the University towards progress in fulfilling its long term vision.

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In his 25 minutes power-point presentation, the Founding Vice Chancellor touched upon wide range of issues, from the students enrolment to award of degrees, curricular review to evaluation, recruitment of teaching and non-teaching positions, special lectures to innovative programmes like Winter Sojourn, management of University administration under challenging circumstances and NET-SLET examination. He stated that the University had three major tasks in hand at the moment, which was:

- (a) Promulgating Regulations and Ordinances as per demands of the statute;
- (b) Outline policies for academic advancement in consonance with the objects and vision; and
- (c) Build and develop physical infrastructure of compatible standard.

13.3.2 He mentioned that while the first two tasks were being carried out in right earnest and with considerable amount of success, satisfactory progress is yet to come in the third task primarily because the protracted issue of transfer of land by the Government of Sikkim has not been materialized, even though the entire amount of compensation had been paid more than three years back.

13.3.3 While highlighting important events that were recently organized in the University, the founding Vice Chancellor mentioned about the visit of the colleges by the University team, its Winter Sojourn program, Oral History Project, Spring Lecture, Book Discussions Program, Foreign Policy lecture, PLANNER 2012, and ongoing admission process to name a few. In retrospection, he expressed that the dream of the University to establish itself as the premier center of excellence of national and international repute has however, remained un-realized to the desired level for reasons not entirely under his control.

13.3.4 Members applauded every efforts of the university towards all-round progress and congratulated the Vice Chancellor for bringing in best practices and innovative ideas in the University system within the short span of his tenure and reposed confidence that the University is moving in the right direction under his leadership.

13.3.5 Members expressed grave concern over the inordinate delay in getting possession of the earmarked land and apprehended that all good work done so far would come to naught unless this single issue is resolved at the earliest. Sikkim University now functions from 19 hired buildings in Gangtok that costs a huge sum of public fund (nearly Rs 2 crore per annum) in terms of rents and maintenances. Though the University is very keen to take over the land and start building its own infrastructure, given the indifferent and insensitive attitude of the Government of Sikkim it is deeply

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worried as further delay in land acquisition are fraught with serious issues of cost escalation, land owners unwillingness to vacate at a later stage, demand for raising of compensation, present hardships faced by the University, foreseeable resistance from the University to shift the campus to such a distant place and steady hike in the land prices. Though many land owners keep coming to Sikkim University expressing their full support to the idea of the University, they are at a loss to mention that the Government has not shown any interest in getting the land vacated for the reasons known to the government only. The distant and difficult location of the land could further deter the University to shift if the land is not handed over in time.

13.3.6 In the past also several Executive Council Meetings and also the Academic Council Meetings had expressed their deepest and serious concerns on the indifferent attitudes of the Government of Sikkim in the transfer of land to Sikkim University. This was against the backdrop of four letters (between April and June 2010) issued by the Government of Sikkim to Sikkim University asking the latter to take over the land. However, when the University team finally went to start the process of taking over of land at Yangang in June 2010, it was aghast to see that no land owner had vacated the land as they were not served any notice with regard to the vacation of land. The resolution of the 7th Executive Council meeting held on 03 November 2010 in New Delhi is given below. This resolution was sent to the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resources Development, Government of India on 27 December 2010 for further action.

“The Executive Council unanimously expressed its deep sense of dismay and dissatisfaction on the way in which the land acquisition process has progressed so far. The Executive Council also noted with great concern that in spite of the fact that compensation to the land owners have already been paid, the notices to vacate the land have not been issued. The delays are costing the Government of India both cost and time over-run in execution of the project. It also deprives the state of Sikkim, indirectly, in access to quality higher education the University is willing to deliver once the campus land is made available to it. It was said that delay in the handing over of land would also result in resentment among the faculty and staff and the students in moving to Yangang after being in at Gangtok for more than three years. The House resolved that the matter may be taken up immediately with the Ministry of Human Resource Development to immediately resolve the issue with the Government of Sikkim.

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It should also be pointed out to the Government of India that the issue is becoming more and more complicated day by day. The House also suggested that the Ministry of Human Resource Development may be requested by the University to consider other options including re-location of the University deemed necessary if the land could not be handed over to the University by the Government of Sikkim within next three to four months from now.”

13.3.7 Against the above backdrop, after protracted deliberations over each and every aspect of the matter as detailed by the Vice Chancellor, the House decided to adopt a resolution as under:

RESOLUTION

Executive Council of Sikkim University expresses its deepest concerns over the non-transfer of land earmarked for building the Campus at Yangyang, South Sikkim District even after transfer of full amount of compensation money demanded by the Government of Sikkim. It feels an imperative need that the matter is brought to the knowledge of the Visitor, Her Excellency the President of India, with an appeal to use her good office in resolving the impasse.

13.3.8 The members requested the Vice Chancellor to first send a letter to the visitor detailing the developments in sequential order immediately and thereafter, if so warranted, seek personal audience of Hon'ble Visitor by the members of the Executive Council to impressing upon the urgency.

13.3.9 The Vice Chancellor stated that he would soon draft the letter and circulate it among the members for their perusal before issuing the same.

GROUP I –ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

EC:13:04	Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting of the Executive Council held on 16.03.2012
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Minutes:

13.4.1 The Secretary informed the House that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated in time after duly incorporating the comment received from one of the members. The House thereupon accepted the minutes as confirmed.

EC:13:05	Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 1 st and 2 nd Meeting of the Second Executive Council held on 22.02.2012 and 16.03.2012
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Minutes:

13.5.1 The action taken on each of the items deliberated in the 1st and 2nd Meeting of the Second Executive Council held on 22.02.2012 and 16.03.2012 respectively was reported by the Secretary. The House noted the same with approval.

EC: 13:06	Appointment of Non-Teaching Staff on Regular Basis
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Minutes:

13.6.1 The Secretary informed that the selection process for 14 out of 17 categories of non-teaching posts approved for creation by the Executive Council had been completed. All procedural requirements of selection were scrupulously followed in a transparent manner. At least three outside experts in their respective fields including the present and former Secretaries and senior officials in the Government of Sikkim were present in the Interview Boards. The Vice Chancellor chaired every meeting as per rule, while the Registrar served as Secretary.

13.6.2 The Secretary then sought permission of the House to open the recommendation of each Board, kept in sealed covers, for presentation before the members. On being permitted, the results of the interview were read out as under:

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Sl.No.	Name of Post	Date of Interview	Number of position	Candidate selected	Remarks
1	Executive Engineer	18.03.2012	One	-----	None was found suitable.
2	Medical Officer	18.03.2012	One	1. Dr. Manjushree Thapa Manger	
3	Technical Assistant	20.03.2012	Three	1. Shri J Joseph 2. Ms. Radha Kumari Basnett 3. Shri Deepak Chettri	
4	Laboratory Attendant	20.03.2012	Eight	1. Shri Bikram Thapa 2. Shri Tulsu Sharma 3. Shri Dinesh Rai 4. Ms. Ragina Rai 5. Shri Keshav Kumar Bishnukey 6. Shri Nar Bahadur Subba 7. Shri Binod Chettri 8. Shri Bhanu Manger	
5	Nurse	21.03.2012	One	1. Ms. Chung Chung Bhutia	
6	Nursing Attendant	21.03.2012	One	-----	None was found suitable.
7	Executive (Assistant)	22.03.2012	Two	1. Shri Nishad Subba	No candidate was found suitable for the position reserved for OBC category.

13.6.3 The House approved the recommendation of the selection board and directed that the appointment letters to selected candidates be issued expeditiously. The Secretary further informed the House that the selection process of the remaining seven posts was kept in abeyance on the request of the State Government (letter sent by the Secretary, Department of Human Resource Development, Government of Sikkim) as a section of the agitators were instigated to disrupt law and order situation by illegally blocking the National Highway. Since most of the University buildings are located on the highway and since the state administration could not effectively tackle the situation of this illegal national highway blockade by some instigated agitators, University was literally forced to discontinue the process of selection.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Scheduled date
1.	Junior Executive (LDC)	23 March 2012
2.	System Analyst	24 March 2012

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3.	Laboratory Assistant	25 March 2012
4.	Car Support	26 March 2012
5.	Assistant Executive (UDC)	27 March 2012
6.	Semi Professional Assistant	28 March 2012
7.	Security Supervisor	28 March 2012

13.6.4 Members noted the action of the University and directed that the selection process should be resumed at the appropriate time.

13.6.5 Vice Chancellor and the Chairman clearly stated that since his tenure as the Founding Vice Chancellor is going to be over on 1st July 2012, he would not like to make any appointment on regular basis (from 1 April 2012 onwards i.e. three months before the end of his tenure) for any posts on grounds of both standard norms and high ethical standard maintained by the University. Therefore, it would be appropriate if the process of selection for the remaining positions were taken up after assumption of office by the next Vice Chancellor. He further stated, that he had already apprised the Joint Secretary, MHRD, New Delhi on this stand of his. The House agreed to defer the process of both selection and appointment till then including the selection of candidates for which the written tests have already been held. Meanwhile, contractual appointments made against those vacant posts should continue, in order to ensure that the University works did not suffer.

EC: 13:07	Consideration of Annual Accounts 2011-12
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Minutes:

13.7.1 The members were informed that the Annual Accounts for the year 2011-12 were drawn within a fortnight of closing of financial year and were placed before 8th Finance committee on 20th April 2012. It was mentioned that the schedule of presentation etc. of these accounts prescribed by the MHRD was being proponed in a bid to ensure that the entire processes including the Audit and Certification of Accounts by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) could be completed before the present Vice Chancellor demitted his office.

13.7.2 The salient features of the accounts highlighting progressive growth of the University was presented by Shri Talukdar, Manager (Finance) on PowerPoint mode.

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13.7.3 The House highly appreciated the efficiency and professionalism with which the Annual Accounts were prepared and presented despite severe crunch of staff members and physical difficulties. The House applauded the dedication of the entire Finance Management Team of the University (including Dakshata Lawar, Doma Tamang, Arun Thapa and Pragya Satpathi) led by Shri D Kanunjna, Officer on Special Duty (previously led by Shri PV Ravi, Finance Officer). The House also appreciated the logistical activities so efficiently handled by Shri Satyam Rana and Ms Prava Mukhia. The House thereafter, approved the annual accounts 2011-12 and directed that all necessary steps be taken to get the accounts audited expeditiously by Accountant General (Audit), Sikkim.

FC:13:08	Utilization of Grants
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Minutes:

13.8.1 The House was informed that the University, despite various and serious constraints, did effectively utilize 94% of grants received by it during the 11th Plan (2007-2012).

13.8.2 The House was further informed that even though the central Government allotted enough funds for various development activities including construction of buildings, release of the grants to the extent of about Rs 30 crore during 11th Plan period was held back by the UGC because of non- transfer of land by the Government of Sikkim. It was informed that the University, established in July, 2007, received grants aggregating to Rs 89.58 crore against a preliminary allocation of Rs. 115 crore during the 11th FYP 2007 – 2012. Major component of this allocation (80% approx.) was intended to build the Campus and support infrastructure to set up distinctive academic and research programmes of far-reaching impact. The University Grants Commission had assured the Founding Vice Chancellor that similar grant could be allocated in case the already allocated grant is exhausted in course of implementation of the 11th plan proposals.

13.8.3 The House noted the progress of utilization of funds with approval

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FC:13:09	Proposal for grants under XII Plan (2012-2017)
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Minutes:

13.9.1 The requirement of allocation of funds for Sikkim University during the 12th Plan, worked out in the format prescribed by the UGC, was presented before the House. The members were informed by the Founding Vice Chancellor that even though the University completed 58 months of its journey, it was still not grown enough in terms of physical infrastructure as it should have, as it could not start building the campus. Consequently the urgency of developing the campus at the earmarked site and to carry forward its academic and research programmes remained the prime focus of the 12th Plan requirement.

13.9.2 Salient features of the Draft XII Plan document was presented by Dr. Omprasad Gadde, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the team responsible for preparation of XII plan papers. Members made several observations with regard to introduction of proposed programs, building of campus at the remote locality as also the projected social and community outreach of the University. The Founding Vice Chancellor assured the members that the University made it a practice to pool best resources within the country and abroad in designing its highly innovative programmes, which contain global acceptance with local ethos. For campus building, the University has a powerful team of Board of Campus Development at Yangang (BCDY) and would hire other professional consultants who are highly eminent in their fields of expertise. The outreach programmes of the University including a Central School, CGHS hospital, Community Radio, Railway ticket counters, sports amenities, outsourcing of class IV and other services, bio-diversity parks are all oriented to build up university-community linkage to enhance inclusive growth and intellectual development in the region.

13.9.3 The members appreciated the projections made on the requirement of the XII Plan. However, the members reiterated their concern over delay in building the campus. It was felt by members that the requirements projected on the assumption that the land would be made available soon and the campus building work would commence immediately thereafter, might not come out as expected. The University thereupon would land into serious problem even in continuing with its on-going activities. The House accordingly suggested that the University should also prepare a contingent plan to build adequate Temporary Transit Campus (TTC) on a smaller lease-held land in Gangtok and around and submit the same to UGC along with the main proposal. The House also discussed as how some other new Central Universities have already done such contingent plans and built transit infrastructures so

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that the students, faculty and staff members and public at large are not put into inconvenience. This would also save the huge rental expenditures the University is presently incurring.

13.9.4 After detailed deliberation, the House directed the University to include this parallel proposal of Contingent Plan during the 12th Plan period for consideration of the Central Government.

EC:13:10	Constitution of Panel by the Executive Council for appointment of the next Chancellor of Sikkim University
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Minutes:

13.10.1 The House was informed that the tenure of present Chancellor, Prof M.S. Swaminathan, will expire on 01.07.2012 and it is incumbent upon the Executive Council to recommend to the Visitor names of three eminent personalities for selection of appointment as the next Chancellor. The House, after careful consideration and detailed deliberation, unanimously agreed upon the names of three eminent personalities and directed the university that the recommendation of the House, along with bio data of these persons be forwarded to MHRD for consideration of the Visitor.

[The personalities are Prof. Muchkund Dubey, Prof. Kapila Vatsyayan and Justice (Mrs) Ruma Pal]

GROUP II – ITEMS FOR RATIFICATION

EC: 13:11	Appointment of Officer on Special Duty (Finance & Management)
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Minutes:

13.11.1 The House ratified the appointment of Shri Dibakar Kanunjna as Officer on Special Duty (Finance & Management) on standard terms of contractual agreement agreed to.

EC:13:12	Appointment/Resignation of Teaching & Academic Staff (on contractual basis)
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Minutes:

13.12.1 The House noted and ratified the appointments and resignations of Teaching & Academic Staff (on contractual basis) as mentioned in the Agenda item.

EC:13:13	Appointment/Resignation of Management Staff (contractual, regular & tenured basis)
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Minutes:

13.13.1 The House noted and ratified the appointment and resignations of the Management staff (on contractual, regular and tenured basis) as mentioned in the Agenda item.

EC:13:14	MoU with INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad for Shodhganga
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Minutes:

13.14.1 The House considered the Agenda item and ratified the University's entering into MoU with INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad for an interesting and far reaching project known as *Shodhganga*.

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EC:13:15	Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Archives of India, New Delhi
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Minutes:

13.15.1 The House considered the Agenda item and ratified the University's entering into Memorandum of Cooperation with the National Archives of India, New Delhi.

EC:13:16	Memorandum of Cooperation on Inter-University Consortium on Cryosphere & Climate Change
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Minutes:

13.16.1 The House considered the Agenda item and ratified the University's entering into Memorandum of Cooperation on Inter-University Consortium on Cryosphere & Climate Change.

GROUP III – ITEMS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

EC:13:17	Joining Status of Regular Teaching and Non-Teaching staff
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Minutes:

13.17.1 The details submitted were perused and noted with approval.

EC:13:18	Status of Hiring of Buildings
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Minutes:

13.18.1 The members expressed concern over the considerable outgo of funds on rent of buildings on which University had little option. The House was informed that rents are fixed after conducting joint survey involving CPWD experts and that these are reasonable as compared to normal market rate.

EC:13:19	Position of Sanctioned Strength and Staff-in-Position
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Minutes:

13.19.1 The House noted the matter regarding man-power position of the university.

EC:13:20	PLANNER 2012
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Minutes:

13.20.1 The House deeply appreciated the efforts of the University in successfully organizing and holding the PLANNER 2012. Thereby the House considered the agenda item and noted for its information.

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EC:13:21	Third Spring Lecture and Book Discussion Programme 2012
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Minutes:

13.21.1 The House deeply appreciated the efforts of the University in successfully organizing and holding the Third Spring Lecture delivered by Prof Mushirul Hasan, Director General of National Archives of India, and Book Discussion Programme 2012. Thereby the House considered the agenda item and noted for its information.

EC:13:22	Second Foreign Policy Lecture and Winter Sojourn 2011-12 Presentations: A Report
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Minutes:

13.22.1 The House deeply appreciated the efforts of the University in successfully organizing and holding the Second Foreign Policy Lecture by Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, former Foreign Secretary of India and Winter Sojourn 2011-12. Thereby the House considered the agenda item and noted for its information.

EC:13:23	Sikkim University Website Revamping – A Report
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Minutes:

13.23.1 The House considered the agenda item and noted for its information.

EC:13:24	Any other items with the permission of the Chair
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Minutes:

13.24.1 There being no other item, the Chairman concluded the meeting after offering thanks to the esteemed members for their valuable suggestions and support to this fledging University.

Sd/-
[Shri D. Kanunjna]
Officer on Special Duty
(Finance & Management)